

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system supporting common consumption of media, the system comprising:
 - a first television display at a first home;
 - a first storage in the first home, the first storage supporting consumption of the media by the first television display, and having an associated first network protocol address;
 - a second television display at a second home;
 - a second storage in the second home, the second storage supporting consumption of the media by the second television display, and having an associated second network protocol address;
 - a communication network; and
 - server software that receives a request identifying one of the associated first and second network protocol addresses and responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network protocol addresses to support delivery via the communication network of the media from the first storage to the second home for simultaneous consumption by the first and second television displays under control of a user at the first home.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, still pictures, video, and data.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises real-time video.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second network protocol addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.

8. A system supporting common consumption of media, the system comprising:
 - a first storage in a first home that stores the media, and having an associated first network protocol address;
 - a second television display at a second home, and having an associated second protocol address;
 - a third television display at a third home, and having an associated third protocol address;
 - set top box circuitry, in the first home, communicatively coupled to deliver the media from the first storage, to the second and third television displays;
 - a communication network; and
 - server software that receives a request identifying the associated first network protocol address and responds by identifying the associated second and third network protocol addresses to support delivery via the communication network of the media from the first storage to the second and third television displays for concurrent consumption under control of a user at the first home.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, still pictures, video, and data.

10. The system of claim 8 wherein the media comprises real-time video.
11. The system of claim 8 wherein at least one of the first, second, and third protocol addresses comprise an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).
12. The system of claim 8 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.
13. The system of claim 8 wherein the communication network is the Internet.
14. The system of claim 8 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.
15. The system of claim 8 further comprising a first television display at the first home, and the user at the first home simultaneously consuming the media using the first television display.

16. A system supporting common consumption of media, the system comprising:
 - a first television display at a first home;
 - a first storage in a first home that stores the media;
 - a second television display at a second home;
 - set top box circuitry, in the first home, communicatively coupled to deliver the media from the first storage, to the second television display;
 - a communication network; and
 - server software that coordinates delivery via the communication network of the media from the first storage to the second television display for simultaneous consumption of the media at the first and second television displays under control of a user at the first home.
17. The system of claim 16 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, still pictures, video, real-time video, and data.
18. The system of claim 16 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

19. The system of claim 16 wherein the communication network is the Internet.
20. The system of claim 16 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.
21. The system of claim 16 further comprising:
 - a media peripheral at the second home; and
 - the user at the first home having control of at least one function of the media peripheral at the second home.
22. The system of claim 22 wherein the media peripheral comprises at least one of a stereo system, a digital still camera, a digital video camera, a digital camcorder, a digital audio recorder, a personal computer, a PDA, a liquid crystal display (LCD), a plasma display, and a CRT display.
23. The system of claim 16 further comprising:
 - a server for storing 3rd party media; and
 - the server software supporting delivery of the 3rd party media to at least one of the first and second television displays.